

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Allianz Global Investors GmbH, et al.,

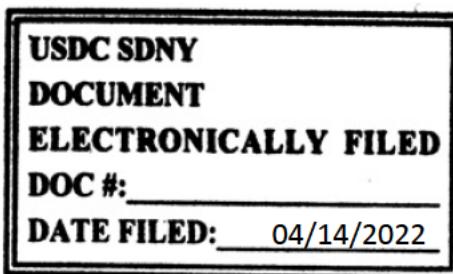
Plaintiffs,

-against-

Bank of America Corporation, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 1:18-cv-10364



**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR ISSUANCE OF A
HAGUE CONVENTION REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE
TO TAKE TESTIMONY OVERSEAS**

The Court, having reviewed Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Issuance of a Hague Convention Request for International Judicial Assistance to Take Testimony Overseas as well as papers in support and opposition, HEREBY ORDERS THAT:

1. The Motion is GRANTED.
2. The Request for Judicial Assistance Pursuant to the Hague Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters attached as Exhibit A to this order, is hereby issued as the Court's "Letter of Request" and is fully incorporated herein.
3. The signed Order and the Letter of Request will be given to Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, who will cause both documents to be filed with the Royal Courts of Justice, The Senior Master (Queen's Bench Division), Royal Courts of Justice Strand, London WC2A 2LL, England.
4. The Stipulation and Order of Confidentiality (ECF No. 157) in this action shall apply to the deposition, including the transcript and video.

5. This Order, the deposition of Robert De Groot or the terms of the Letter of Request (which are incorporated into this Order) shall not be construed or operate as a waiver of any argument, position, objection, allegation, or claim or defense of any party in the above-captioned action, or of the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, or any other privileges, rights, protections, or prohibitions that may apply to that evidence under the laws of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, or the State of New York.

The Clerk of Court is respectfully requested to terminate the gavels at ECF Nos. 1056 and 1059.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 04/14/2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stewart D. Aaron", is written above a horizontal line.

THE HONORABLE STEWART D. AARON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Allianz Global Investors GmbH, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

Bank of America Corporation, et al.,

Defendant.

Case No.: 1:18-cv-10364

**UNOPPOSED REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE
PURSUANT TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 18 MARCH 1970 ON THE TAKING
OF EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL OR COMMERCIAL MATTERS**

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (“Southern District”) presents its compliments to the appropriate judicial authority of England for assistance in obtaining evidence to be used at trial in the above-captioned civil proceeding before this Court. This unopposed request is made pursuant to Chapter I of the Hague Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence in Civil or Commercial Matters (“Hague Convention”). The Southern District is a court of law and equity and has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. §§ 15(a) and 26.

The Southern District has determined that it would further the interests of justice and that justice cannot be completely done between the parties without the testimony, under oath, of Robert De Groot (“Mr. De Groot”) residing within your jurisdiction. The action involves claims of a conspiracy to violate the antitrust laws of the United States. Mr. De Groot is a former employee of two defendants in the above-captioned action. He was a Foreign Exchange (“FX”) trader for Defendant Citigroup Global Markets (“Citi”), from [REDACTED] and for Defendant BNP Paribas (“BNPP”), from [REDACTED]. He has knowledge relevant to this action as described in more detail below.

The testimony of Mr. De Groot is not available from any source within the jurisdiction of the Southern District, and cannot be obtained by any means other than pursuant to an order of appropriate judicial authority of the United Kingdom, compelling the witness to appear for examination. Mr. De Groot, a non-party to this action, is currently the Chief Information Officer of cryptocurrency trading at Centerport Capital Management with a business address of 13, Manor Way London, SE3 9EF, England.

This request is made with the understanding that, and on the basis that any order made pursuant to this request: (1) will not require Mr. De Groot to commit any offense; (2) will not require Mr. De Groot to undergo a broader form of inquiry than we would have if the litigation were conducted in the United Kingdom; and (3) will not violate the laws of civil procedure of any English court.

The Southern District, therefore, and in conformity with Article 3 of the Hague Convention, respectfully requests that you, in furtherance of justice by proper and usual process of your court, cause Mr. De Groot to appear before an official examiner authorized to administer oaths, and to take testimony, at a precise time to be fixed by you, and answer on his oath or affirmation questions and cross-questions, and that you will direct his deposition to be transcribed and recorded by video, and the transcript and video be sent to counsel for the parties in the action, who so request a copy. The Southern District Stands ready to provide similar judicial assistance to judicial authorities in the United Kingdom when required.

Finally, this Court requests from the judicial authority of England that this Letter of Request and its exhibits, and the declaration of Daniel L. Brockett dated April 1, 2022, and its exhibits be closed to public inspection to the maximum extent permitted by your laws because they are subject to a Protective Order in this case and have been filed under seal with this Court. *See*

Stipulation and Order of Confidentiality (“Protective Order”) dated February 11, 2019, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK THEREFORE MAKES THE FOLLOWING REQUEST:

1. Sender

The Honorable Stewart D. Aaron
United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007
United States of America

2. Central Authority of the Requested State

The Senior Master (Queen’s Bench Division)
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London WC2A 2LL
United Kingdom

On behalf of:
The Central Authority of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH United Kingdom

3. Person to whom the executed request is to be returned

The Honorable Stewart D. Aaron
United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007
United States of America

and

Johanna Y. Ong
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

865 S. Figueroa Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, Ca 90017
United States of America

4. Specification of the date by which the requesting authority requires receipt of the response to the Request for International Judicial Assistance (“Request for Assistance”)

The requesting authority would greatly appreciate a response to the Request for Assistance within 21 days or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

5.

a. Requesting Judicial Authority

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007
United States of America

b. To the competent authority of

United Kingdom

c. Name of the case and any identifying number

Allianz Global Investors GmbH, et al., v. Bank of America Corporation, et al.,

Case No. 1:18-cv-10364-LGS (S.D.N.Y.)

6. Names and addresses of the parties and their representatives

a. Plaintiffs

Allianz Global Investors U.S. LLC; AllianzGI NFJ All-Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz AGIC Global Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz AGIC International Growth Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; AllianzGI AGIC Small to Mid Cap Growth Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Allianz OCC Equity Premium Strategy Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz NACM Global Equity 130/30 Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Allianz PEA Value Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz AGIC International Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz AGIC International Growth Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Allianz AGIC International Growth Opportunities Fund, a series of; Allianz AGIC Pacific Rim Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Emerging Markets Opportunities Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz AGIC Target Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Mid-Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz Global Investors Capital International Systematic Fund LLC; Allianz OCC International Equity Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz OCC Renaissance Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz OCC Value Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz RCM All Alpha Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-

Strategy Trust; Allianz RCM All Horizons Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Allianz RCM Biotechnology Fund add Global Health Sciences, n/k/a AllianzGI Health Sciences Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz RCM BRIC Stars Fund, n/k/a Allianz Emerging Markets Equity Fund; Allianz RCM Disciplined International Equity Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz RCM Disciplined International Equity Fund - Fgn.Equity; Allianz RCM Financial Services Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz RCM Global Small Cap Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Global-Small Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; ALLIANZ RCM GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY FUND, n/k/a AllianzGI Global Sustainability Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Allianz RCM International Opportunities Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Allianz RCM Large-Cap Growth Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Focused Growth Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Allianz RCM Mid-Cap Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Mid-Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI Emerging Markets Consumer Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Emerging Market Consumer Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; AllianzGI Emerging Markets Opportunities Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI Emerging-Markets Small Cap, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; AllianzGI Global Equity & Convertible Income Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Equity & Convertible Income Fund; AllianzGI Global Managed Volatility Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; AllianzGI Global Natural Resources Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI Global Small-Cap Opportunities Portfolio, a portfolio of AllianzGI Institutional Multi-Series Trust; AllianzGI Global Small-Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI Health Sciences Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI Income & Growth Equity Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI International & Premium Strategy Fund; AllianzGI International Managed Volatility Fund , a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI Mid-Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; NFJ Dividend, Interest & Premium Strategy Fund; AllianzGI NFJ International Small-Cap Value Fund; AllianzGI NFJ International Value Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; AllianzGI NFJ Mid-Cap Value Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Nicholas-Applegate Emerging Markets Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Emerging Markets Opportunities Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Nicholas-Applegate Global Select Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; Nicholas-Applegate International Growth Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI International Growth Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; Nicholas-Applegate Small Cap Emerging Countries Series LLC; AllianzGI NFJ Small-Cap Value Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; RCM Global Equity Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; RCM International Small Cap Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI International Small-Cap Fund, a series of Allianz Funds Multi-Strategy Trust; RCM Strategic Growth Fund, n/k/a AllianzGI Focused Growth Fund, a series of Allianz Funds; The Korea Fund, Inc.; Allianz Global Investors GmbH; Allianz Global Investors Fund Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable (f/k/a Dresdner Global Strategies Fund Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable; Allianz European Pension Investments Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable; Allianz Global Investors Taiwan Limited; Anchorage Capital Group, L.L.C.; Andra AP-fonden; BlackRock, Inc.; BlueCrest Capital Management Limited (f/k/a BlueCrest Capital Management LLP); Brevan Howard Asia Master Fund Limited; California State Teachers'

Retirement System; PFA Pension Forsikringsaktieselskab and PFA Kapitalforening; Pacific Investment Management Company LLC; Portigon AG; Pension Reserves Investment Management Board of Massachusetts; SEI Trust Company.

b. Names and addresses of Plaintiffs' representatives

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c. Defendants

Bank of America Corporation; Bank of America, N.A.; Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.; Barclays Bank PLC; Barclays PLC; Barclays Capital, Inc.; BNP Paribas Group; BNP Paribas USA, Inc.; BNP Paribas S.A.; BNP Paribas Securities Corp.; Citigroup, Inc.; Citibank, N.A.; Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.; Credit Suisse AG, Credit Suisse Group AG; Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC; Deutsche Bank AG; Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.; HSBC Bank PLC; HSBC North America Holdings Inc.; HSBC Bank USA, N.A.; HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.; J.P. Morgan Securities LLC; Morgan Stanley; Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC; Morgan Stanley & Co. International PLC; The Royal Bank of Canada; Royal Bank of Scotland PLC; NatWest Markets Securities Inc.; SG Americas Securities LLC; Société Générale S.A.; Standard Chartered Bank; UBS AG; UBS Securities LLC; The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; Goldman, Sachs & Co. LLC.

d. Names and addresses of Defendants' representatives

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David G. Januszewski
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¹ Allen & Overy LLP does not represent Defendants BNP Paribas, BNP Paribas USA, Inc., and BNP Paribas Securities Corp. with respect to claims by Claimants affiliated with BlackRock, Inc.

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² Skadden Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP does not represent JPMorgan Chase & Co., JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC with respect to claims by BlackRock, Inc. or BlackRock-related entities listed in Appendix C of the *Allianz* complaint.

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³ Linklaters LLP does not represent Société Générale with respect to claims by BlackRock, Inc. or BlackRock-related entities listed in Appendix C of the *Allianz* complaint.

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Counsel for UBS AG; UBS Securities LLC

7.

a. Nature and purpose of the proceedings:

The Plaintiffs in this case allege that the Defendant banks (including Citi and BNPP) engaged in a conspiracy to fix prices in the foreign exchange (“FX”) market in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. A copy of Plaintiffs’ Third Amended Complaint (“Complaint”), dated July 28, 2020, is attached as Exhibit 2 hereto. The nature of the action is summarized at Complaint, ¶¶ 1-6. Plaintiffs seek damages and other relief for injury caused by Defendants’ wrongdoing. Complaint at 388-89.

b. Summary of complaint

Plaintiffs allege, *inter alia*, that the Defendants conspired to fix FX prices and otherwise manipulate the FX market from a period beginning at least as early as January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2013, in violation of U.S. antitrust laws. Specifically, Plaintiffs allege that Defendants' conspiracy encompassed: (a) coordinating and fixing bid/ask spreads quoted to customers; (b) manipulating FX benchmark rates, such as the WM/Reuters and ECB benchmark rates; and (c) other wrongful conduct that improperly manipulated the FX market. *See e.g.*, Complaint, ¶¶ 1-13, 465-582, 583-663. Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants used electronic chat rooms with names such as "The Cartel," "The Mafia," "The Club," "The Bandits' Club," "The Dream Team," "One Team, One Dream," and "The Sterling Lads," in furtherance of the conspiracy. Complaint, ¶ 3.

c. Summary of defense

Defendants deny they entered into any agreements to fix prices or otherwise manipulate the FX market. Defendants moved to dismiss Plaintiffs' claims on various legal grounds, including failing to state a claim for relief. The Court granted in part and denied in part Defendants' motion.

8.

a. Evidence to be obtained

This Court respectfully requests that the appropriate judicial authority in England cause the appropriate orders to be issued to direct the deposition, under oath, of Mr. De Groot to be used at trial in these proceedings.

b. Purpose of the evidence or judicial act sought

At trial, Plaintiffs must prove the existence of an agreement and/or conspiracy to fix FX spreads and manipulate benchmark rates. Plaintiffs must demonstrate that the conspiracy occurred

in or affected commerce in the United States of America. Plaintiffs must demonstrate that the conspiracy proximately caused injury to Plaintiffs.

Mr. Brockett has represented and furnished sufficient evidence to satisfy this Court that Mr. De Groot has personal knowledge of matters material and relevant to the matters at issue in the proceedings for the period of at least 2003 through 2013. As set forth below, the evidence sought by Plaintiffs relates to the matters in question. Because Mr. De Groot resides outside the subpoena power of this Court, and therefore cannot be compelled to testify at trial, Plaintiffs seek deposition testimony to prove their claims at trial.

Mr. De Groot's background and employment, as a former FX trader for Defendants Citi and BNPP, as well as his general knowledge of the FX market, are relevant to establishing the foundation for Mr. De Groot to testify about the mechanics of the alleged conspiracy. Mr. De Groot's testimony is also relevant to Plaintiffs' allegations that FX traders had strong social and professional ties with traders at co-conspirator banks, creating opportunities for collusion. Section 10, Topic A, *infra*.

Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding his participation in multi-bank chat rooms and communications with FX traders from other Defendants between at least 2003-2013 is relevant to prove the alleged conspiracy. Section 10, Topics C-E, *infra*. Plaintiffs have alleged that Defendants communicated directly with each other via multibank chat rooms to share market-sensitive information and coordinate trading activity with competitors. Plaintiffs have further alleged that the nature of the names of these chat rooms like "The Cartel" or "The Mafia" support the inference they were used for anticompetitive purposes. Thus, Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding his participation in these chat rooms is highly relevant to plaintiffs' claims.

Specifically, Mr. De Groot was an active participant in multi-bank chat rooms with FX traders with other Defendants, including but not limited to, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Plaintiffs have attached example chat transcripts in which Mr. De Groot participated as Exhibits to the Brockett Declaration. (*See* Brockett Decl., Exs. B-D.)

Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding his chat room communications is relevant to demonstrate his knowledge of the alleged conspiracy, including the meanings of his communications, his understanding of what FX traders communicated to each other, and how he used that information to trade FX on behalf of Defendants Citi and BNPP. Mr. De Groot's testimony is also necessary to explain at trial communications through other media for which written evidence does not exist, such as text messages and phone calls.

Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding his knowledge of Citi's and BNPP's policies regarding electronic communications, information sharing, and antitrust compliance is relevant to Plaintiffs' claims. Section 10, Topics F-G, *infra*. Plaintiffs intend to prove that Defendants lacked compliance measures and/or knew of and either failed to prevent or encouraged violations of compliance policies. Plaintiffs also intend to show that Defendants' own policies recognized that the sharing of confidential information and coordinated activity to fix benchmark rates or agree on spreads and spot prices are improper. Accordingly, Mr. De Groot's testimony concerning his knowledge

of the banks' enforcement of (or lack thereof) and FX traders' compliance (or lack thereof) with Citi's and BNPP's internal policies is relevant to establishing Plaintiffs' claims.

Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding his own and Citi's and/or BNPP's profit and loss in FX is relevant to show a motive to conspire both at the corporate and individual trader level. Section 10, Topics H-I, *infra*. This testimony also bears on alleged injury to Plaintiffs. Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding his knowledge of Citi's and/or BNPP's algorithms is relevant to the interrelationship of FX prices between trading platforms.

Finally, Plaintiffs allege that Mr. De Groot's testimony regarding any investigation of his or other FX traders' conduct in the FX market during the alleged conspiracy period is relevant to establish liability at trial. Section 10, Topic J, *infra*. Various regulatory agencies have sanctioned Citi and BNPP and Mr. De Groot's knowledge of the conduct alleged in those agencies' orders or findings is relevant to establish liability.

9. Identity of any person to be examined

Robert De Groot
13, Manor Way
London, SE3 9EF
England

Name and address of witness's counsel

Adam Ford
Ford O'Brien Landy, LLP
275 Madison Avenue, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10016

10. Questions to be put to the persons to be examined or statement of the subject-matter about which they are to be examined

A. Mr. De Groot's educational background, employment history, professional qualifications, cooperation or separation agreements, relationships with other traders and personal preparation for the deposition (to include any contacts the witness

may have had with the parties, their lawyers, and other witnesses, but excluding any privileged content of such communications).

B. Mr. De Groot's knowledge of the foreign exchange market, including, but not limited to, his knowledge of bid/ask spreads, benchmark rates, the relationship between spreads and prices, the different FX instruments and their relationship to each other and the market share of Citi, BNPP and their competitors.

C. Mr. De Groot's knowledge of communications with each co-Defendant from 2003 through 2013 regarding any of matters listed in a-e below (but Mr. De Groot shall not be required to state what documents, other than any shown to him during the deposition, are or have been in his possession, custody, or power, the term "documents," including, without limitation, chat room discussions on a screen):

- a. imparting to or receiving from another Defendant bank confidential client information;
- b. front running client orders;
- c. triggering of contingent foreign exchange contracts;
- d. coordinating or manipulating bid-ask spreads quoted to customers; and
- e. manipulating foreign exchange benchmark rates such as the WM/Reuters fix and the ECB rate.

D. Mr. De Groot's knowledge regarding the use of chat rooms to trade foreign exchange and/or communicate with other competing banks (but Mr. De Groot shall not be required to state what documents, other than any shown to him during the deposition, are or have been in his possession, custody, or power, with the term "documents," including, without limitation, chat room discussions on a screen).

E. Mr. De Groot's knowledge regarding documents shown to him during the deposition, including: (i) chat room discussions from at least 2003 through 2013 which he participated in or observed concerning matters set out at C a-e above, ethics of such discussions or behavior or possible regulators' interest in such discussions or behavior with employees of Defendant banks; and (ii) communications from 2003 through 2013 within Citi and/or BNPP to which he was a party concerning matters set out at (i).

Documents are not to be shown to Mr. De Groot during the deposition unless either: (a) provided to him or his counsel, with copies to counsel for all parties intending to attend the deposition, 14 days before his deposition; or (b) with the permission of the Examiner on application to him by the party wishing to show the documents.

F. Mr. De Groot's knowledge of, training in, and compliance with Citigroup's and/or

BNP Paribas's corporate policies regarding: (a) communications with other banks engaging in foreign exchange trading; (b) confidentiality of customer information, and (c) antitrust and competition. Mr. De Groot's knowledge of the enforcement (or lack of enforcement) of such policies and compliance (or lack of compliance) with such policies by other traders at Citi and BNPP.

G. Mr. De Groot's performance reviews and communications with Citi's and/or BNPP's compliance department regarding his potential or alleged noncompliance with corporate policies from at least 2003 through 2013.

H. Mr. De Groot's compensation and profits and losses as well as his knowledge of the profits and losses of Citi and BNPP in foreign exchange trading from at least 2003 through 2013.

I. Mr. De Groot's knowledge of any algorithms used by Citi and/or BNPP or its competitors for foreign exchange trading from at least 2007 through 2013.

J. Mr. De Groot's knowledge of any investigations, guilty pleas, and/or regulatory fines regarding Citi's and/or BNPP's participation in the foreign exchange market from at least 2003 through 2013.

11. Documents or other property to be inspected

Plaintiffs and this Court are not requesting that Mr. De Groot produce any documents.

12. Any requirement that the evidence be given on oath or affirmation and any special form to be used

The examination of the identified at Section 9 above will be taken under oath before: (1) a secretary of embassy, counsel general, consul, vice-consul, or consular agent of the United States of America or any officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the United States of America or of the United Kingdom; or (2) before a person appointed by the Court and empowered to administer oaths and take testimony. This Court will be content if the requested Court appoints a duly qualified and authorized Examiner.

This Court further requests that you, by your proper and usual process, require that the testimony given during the above-described deposition be given under the following oath or affirmation: "I [deponent] swear that the testimony that I am about to give is the truth, the whole

truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God” or “I [deponent] swear that the testimony that I am about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”

13. Special methods or procedure to be followed

The examination of the individual identified in Section 9 above will be taken under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, except to the extent that any such procedure is incompatible with United Kingdom law. The examinations and cross-examinations shall be the same as though the deponent were testifying at trial. The examinations and cross-examinations will be recorded stenographically and by videotape. The examination will be conducted at such time and date to be agreed with by the witness.

This Court respectfully requests that the judicial authority in England permit the examination of Mr. De Groot to be conducted by (i) attorneys for the Plaintiffs or other duly authorized representatives, qualified to practice law in United States jurisdictions and/or in England and Wales, nominated by the Plaintiffs, and that Plaintiffs be permitted to cross-examine Mr. De Groot; (ii) the witness’s counsel; and (iii) attorneys for Citi and BNPP, who may cede up to one hour of their examination time to allow questioning by counsel for any other Defendant.

14. Request for notification of the time and place for the execution of the Request and identity and address of any person to be notified

Johanna Y. Ong
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
865 S. Figueroa Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, Ca 90017
United States of America

Counsel for Plaintiffs will promptly send notice to counsel for all parties to the action.

15. Request for attendance or participation of judicial personnel of the requesting authority at the execution of the Letter of Request

Omitted.

16. Specification of privilege or duty to refuse to produce documents under law of the State of origin

Neither this request for international judicial assistance, the transmission of documents pursuant to the Hague Convention, nor any examination, including without limitation, this request and all transcripts of Mr. De Groot's examination shall waive, or be deemed or argued to have waived, the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, or any other privileges, rights, protections, or prohibitions that may apply to that evidence under the laws of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, or the State of New York, including the privilege against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The examination of Mr. De Groot will not be oppressive. Relevant criminal investigations in the U.K. and U.S. are closed and/or concluded. Moreover, Mr. De Groot's deposition will proceed under the terms of the Protective Order and, therefore, will be given confidential treatment in connection with this litigation.

The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affords both criminal defendants and civil litigants a privilege against compelled testimony that may later be used against them in criminal proceedings, which is similar to the protections provided by U.K. law under Section 14(1) of the Civil Evidence Act of 1968. Mr. De Groot will be given the opportunity to exercise his rights under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution at his deposition. This Court desires that Mr. De Groot be compelled to attend for testimony even if he should express in advance an intention to refuse to answer questions, in reliance on his Fifth Amendment rights. On attending, he may choose to provide useful answers. In any event, testimony given by Mr. De Groot through his refusal to answer certain questions may be of value in this action. In civil litigation in the United States of America, the fact-finder may draw adverse inferences against a party based on a non-party witnesses' invocation of the Fifth Amendment. Therefore, it is possible that Mr. De Groot's

refusal to answer questions may be imputed to Citi and/or BNPP and/or other alleged co-conspirators to create an inference of liability under certain circumstances. However, that refusal could not be used against him in a U.S. criminal proceeding.

17. The fees and costs incurred which are reimbursable under the second paragraph of Article 14 or under Article 26 of the Convention will be borne by

Plaintiffs.

Date of Request: 04/14/2022

Signature and Seal of the Requesting Authority:



Honorable Stewart D. Aaron
United States Magistrate Judge